

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /059 W

----- 011486

R 081639Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2687

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 14616

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GW, UR

SUBJECT: CDU/CSU CHANCELLOR CANDIDATE KOHL'S VISIT

TO THE USSR, SEPT. 22-30

SUMMARY: CDU/CSU CHANCELLOR CANDIDATE HELMUT KOHL WILL VISIT THE SOVIET UNION SEPTEMBER 22-30. KOHL, WHO WILL BE THE GUEST OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE RSFSR, WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY DEPUTY FRAKTION LEADER VON WEISZAEKER AND FRAKTION FOREIGN POLICY SPOKESMAN WERNER MARX. THE CDU LEADER'S PURPOSE IN MAKING THE VISIT IS: A) TO HELP PROJECT A STATESMANLIKE IMAGE FOR THE 1976 ELECTION; B) TO PROVIDE A FIRST-HAND OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN SOVIET VIEWS, AND; C) TO IMPRESS THE SOVIETS THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO LIVE WITH A CDU GOVERNMENT IN BONN. AMONG THE TOPICS KOHL EXPECTS TO DISCUSS ARE CSCE IMPLEMENTATION, MBFR, DETENTE, THE GDR AND BERLIN. KOHL'S ADVISORS DO NOT EXPECT THE SOVIETS TO MAKE CONCESSIONS ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES WHICH COULD HELP THE CDU/CSU
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CANDIDATE DEFEAT SCHMIDT IN NEXT YEAR'S BUNDESTAG

ELECTION. THE VISIT WILL PROVIDE BOTH SIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE EACH OTHER'S MEASURE. END SUMMARY.

1. CDU/CSU CHANCELLOR CANDIDATE KOHL WILL VISIT THE SOVIET UNION SEPTEMBER 22-30. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY CDU/CSU DEPUTY FRAKTION LEADER RICHARD VON WEISZAEKER, FRAKTION FOREIGN POLICY SPOKESMAN WERNER MARX, CDU PRESS SPOKESMAN WILLY WEISKICHER, PERSONAL ASSISTANT, HORST TELTSCHIK AND A GROUP OF WEST GERMAN JURNALISTS.

2. KOHL HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY INVITED TO VISIT THE SOVIET UNION BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE RSFSR. HE IS NOT SURE WITH WHOM HE WILL HAVE APPOINTMENTS AS THE DETAILS OF HIS SCHEDULE ARE STILL BEING DISCUSSED. A SOURCE CLOSE TO KOHL TOLD US THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE EXPRESSED SOME UNHAPPINESS ABOUT WERNER MARX ACCOPANYING KOHL BECAUSE OF CRITICAL STATEMENTS MARX HAS MADE IN THE PAST ABOUT SOVIET LEADERS.

3. THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT AS FAR AS THE CDU IS CONCERNED IS TO PROJECT AN IMAGE OF KOHL AS A STATESMAN, TO GIVE HIM AN OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF SOVIET VIEWS, AND TO IMPRESS THE SOVIETS THAT THE USSR COULD LIVE WITH A CDU GOVERNMENT IN BONN.

4. KOHL AND HIS PARTY EXPECT TO DISCUSS CSCE IMPLEMENTATION, MBFR, DETENTE, THE GDR AND BERLIN. ONE OF THE MEN ACCPANYING KOHL TOLD US THAT KOHL EXPECTS THE SOVIETS TO BE CRITICAL OF THE CDU'S OPPOSITION TO THE CSCE AND THAT IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING IF THE SOVIETS BLAMED FRANZ JOSEPH STRAUSS' INFLUENCE ON KOHL FOR THE CDU'S OPPOSITION TO THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT. OUR SOURCE SAID THAT KOHL WILL HAVE THE SOVIET VISIT VERY MUCH IN MIND WHEN HE SPEAKS BEFORBEFORE THE CSU CONVENTION IN MUNICH SEPTEMBER 13.

5. COMMENT: KOHL AND HIS ADVISORS ARE VERY MUCH AWARE OF HIS LACK OF EXPERIENCE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS (ESPECIALLY COMPARED TO HIS OPPONENT HELMUT SCHMIDT) AND THAT HE MUST DEVELOP A REPUTATION AS A GERMAN POLITICIAN WHO

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CAN DEAL WITH WORLD LEADERS. THE MOSCOW VISIT, HIS TRIP TO CHINA AND HIS PLANNED VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES ARE ALL PART OF THIS EFFORT. KOHL'S ADVISORS DO NOT EXPECT THE SOVIETS TO MAKE CONCESSIONS ON OUTSTANDING USSR-FRG ISSUES WHICH COULD HELP KOHL DEFEAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT NEXT YEAR. NEVERTHELESS, THE VISIT (KOHL'S FIRST VISIT TO THE USSR) WILL, IF HANDLED CORRECTLY, HELP HIS IMAGE AND WILL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR BOTH

SIDES TO TAKE EACH OTHER'S MEASURE.

HILLE NBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY LEADERS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BONN14616
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750310-0481
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750972/aaaacikb.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 OCT 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CDU/CSU CHANCELLOR CANDIDATE KOHL'S VISIT TO THE USSR, SEPT. 22-30
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GE, UR, CDU, CSU, (KOHL, HELMUT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006